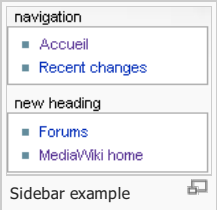
Manual:Interface/Sidebar

< Manual:Interface
(Redirected from Manual:Navigation bar)

This page documents a system message, a wiki page that defines part of the MediaWiki interface. See also the default documentation.

IMPORTANT: The content of this page is outdated. If you have checked or updated this page and found the content to be suitable, please remove this notice.

MediaWiki:Sidebar defines the navigation bar, which provides links to the most important locations in the wiki and supplies site administrators with a place to add a persistent collection of links. For instance, most wikis will link to their community discussion page and some useful tools.



The Monobook skin places the navigation bar on the top-left (top-right for right-to-left languages) along with the search bar and toolbox, but the placement may be different in other skins.

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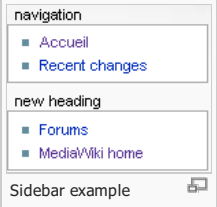
Customize the sidebar [edit source]

As an administrator of your own wiki, to edit your own MediaWiki:Sidebar, replace your wiki page's <title> in the title bar with <MediaWiki:Sidebar>. (The *editinterface* permission needs to be enabled and is enabled for administrators by default; for information on assigning it to other groups, see Manual:User rights.) You may need to use the syntax *//yourdomain/yourwiki/index.php?title=MediaWiki:Sidebar&action=edit* if you use long URLs.

If you are sure you are logged in with the relevant rights but do not see the *edit* link, click on the *create* tab at the top of the page - this will take you to the edit page.

Example sidebar code:

```
* navigation
** mainpage|mainpage
** Special:RecentChanges|Recent changes
* new heading
** portal-url|portal
** http://www.mediawiki.org|MediaWiki home
```



Headings [edit source]

The navigation bar can be split into sections, each with a heading of its own. The heading for each section is taken from the first-level list element ("navigation" and "new heading" in the example above).

If this text corresponds to the name of an interface message (an existing page of that title in the MediaWiki namespace), then the text of that page is used as a label; otherwise, the header title is used as-is.

Bug: no sidebar is shown in the Nostalgia skin (bug 10794).

Links [edit source]

Second-level list elements are links ("mainpage|mainpage" in the example above), where the format is:

```
** target|link text
```

target

The link target can be the name of an interface message (page in the MediaWiki namespace) or wiki page, or an external link. In either case, the link can be internal, interwiki, or external. In some cases (such as links with the "&" character), an interface message is necessary. The link target cannot be made dependent on the interface language set in the preferences.

Algorithm followed:

1. Get the target text.
2. If there is an existing or default interface message with that name, use the content of that message instead of the target text.
3. If the output from the previous step is a valid URL (beginning with http:// or other URL protocol), the link will point to that URL.
4. Else, it will treat it as the link target of a wikilink (linking to that page name or interwiki).
5. In case it would end up linking to '-', the whole entry is removed from the sidebar (that's useful for removing an entry on all languages by changing the message holding the link).

Examples:

- "`** portal-url|portal`" uses the text of MediaWiki:Portal-url (which contains "Project:Community portal").
- "`** Special:RecentChanges|Recent changes`" links to Special:RecentChanges, since there is no interface message of that name.
- "`** w:Foo|Some interwiki page`" links to w:Foo for the same reason.
- "`** http://www.mediawiki.org|MediaWiki home`" links to http://www.mediawiki.org for the same reason.

text

The link text can be the name of an interface message (page in the MediaWiki namespace) or plain text.

- If the link text is the name of an existing or default interface message, the content of that message will be used. MediaWiki will check for localized versions; for example, if the current language is fr (French) and the link text is the interface message "forum", it will check for "forum/fr" before using "forum".
- Otherwise, the link text is used as the target as-is.
- Notice that the link text is **not** optional as in normal wiki links. If the link text is missing, the item is ignored.

Examples:

- `** Homepage|mainpage` uses MediaWiki:Mainpage (which contains "MediaWiki").
- `** Special:Recentchanges|Recent changes` uses "Recent changes", since there is no interface message of that name.

Order of elements [edit source]

By default, the sidebar consists of elements in this order: navigation, search, toolbox, languages. The order can be changed (in MediaWiki 1.13+) by adding special keywords (SEARCH, TOOLBOX and LANGUAGES) to MediaWiki:Sidebar using the heading syntax. For example, the following code moves the search box to the top of the sidebar:

```
* SEARCH

* navigation
** mainpage|mainpage
** Special:Recentchanges|Recent changed
* new heading
** portal-url|portal
** http://www.mediawiki.org|MediaWiki home
```

Translations [edit source]

You can translate the strings, which you use, by editing the according pages in the MediaWiki namespace.

Example: The string, which will replace the item named "mainpage", is taken from MediaWiki:Mainpage. To set/change this text for users, who display your wiki in German, you can put the according text on the page MediaWiki:Mainpage/de.

That way you can easily translate these texts through the MediaWiki interface.

For more advanced translation, see Help:Extension:Translate/Unstructured element translation.

Advanced customization [edit source]

The sidebar can be fully customized by implementing JavaScript or Cascading Style Sheets, or by editing the PHP files directly. Before using these methods, note that:

- JavaScript is fragile: it will not work for users with JavaScript disabled, and scripts frequently fail in different browsers or skins.
- Editing the PHP files can easily cause unexpected errors, and your changes will be lost in the next update unless you

manually change the new files.

Force UI-messages to follow content [edit source]

Some pages should sometimes follow the content language, especially for multilingual sites. This can be controlled with the setting $wgForceUIMsgAsContentMsg. Each message overridden in this way must be explicitly given, for example to let the sidebar link to versions given by the content language for the main page and the portal page add the following to `LocalSettings.php`

code

```
$wgForceUIMsgAsContentMsg = array( 'mainpage', 'portal-url' );
```

Add or remove toolbox sections (JavaScript) [edit source]

The *toolbox*, which appears *under* the search bar, is a dynamic element and cannot be easily customized without the use of skinning extensions (otherwise it requires programming in PHP.) If you still want to do so, you can copy `skins/MonoBook.php`, creating a new skin. You can then make a custom skin to generate these links in your preferred fashion.

Another JavaScript solution is below.

For this solution to work on the entire MediaWiki site, this script has to be copied to MediaWiki:Common.js (MediaWiki:Common.js is available for MediaWiki 1.9 +).

For this solution to work only for a specific user, add this script to Special:MyPage/monobook.js (or another JS page, depending on your preferred skin).

Now simply configure which link should appear in which section. You also can remove some links if you want to.

code

```
function ModifySidebar( action, section, name, link ) {
 try {
  switch ( section ) {
   case 'languages':
    var target = 'p-lang';
    break;
   case 'toolbox':
    var target = 'p-tb';
    break;
   case 'navigation':
    var target = 'p-navigation';
    break;
   default:
    var target = 'p-' + section;
    break;
  }

  if ( action == 'add' ) {
   var node = document.getElementById( target )
          .getElementsByTagName( 'div' )[0]
          .getElementsByTagName( 'ul' )[0];

   var aNode = document.createElement( 'a' );
   var liNode = document.createElement( 'li' );

   aNode.appendChild( document.createTextNode( name ) );
   aNode.setAttribute( 'href', link );
   liNode.appendChild( aNode );
   liNode.className = 'plainlinks';
   node.appendChild( liNode );
  }

  if ( action == 'remove' ) {
   var list = document.getElementById( target )
          .getElementsByTagName( 'div' )[0]
          .getElementsByTagName( 'ul' )[0];

   var listelements = list.getElementsByTagName( 'li' );

   for ( var i = 0; i < listelements.length; i++ ) {
    if (
     listelements[i].getElementsByTagName( 'a' )[0].innerHTML == name ||
     listelements[i].getElementsByTagName( 'a' )[0].href == link
    )
    {
     list.removeChild( listelements[i] );
    }
   }
  }

 } catch( e ) {
  // let's just ignore what's happened
  return;
 }
}

function CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar() {
 // adds [[Special:CategoryTree]] to toolbox
```

```
 ModifySidebar( 'add', 'toolbox', 'CategoryTree', 'http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:CategoryTree' );
 // removes [[Special:Upload]] from toolbox
 ModifySidebar( 'remove', 'toolbox', 'Upload file', 'http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Upload' );
}

addOnloadHook( CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar );
```

Usage

`function CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar()` has to be customized for adding or removing links in specific sections:

`ModifySidebar( "action", "section", "name", "link" );`

parameter	value
`action`	*add* to add a link; *remove* to remove a link
`section`	*navigation*, *toolbox*, *languages* but also any other existing customized section; the given link will be added to or removed from this section
`name`	contains the text of the link
`link`	contains the URL of the link

restricting modifications to specific usergroups

If you want to restrict the modification of the links to a specific user group (e.g. *bureaucrat*), change

```
addOnloadHook( CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar );
```

to

```
if ( isArray( wgUserGroups ) ) {
 if ( wgUserGroups.Contains( 'bureaucrat' ) ) {
  addOnloadHook( CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar );
 }
}
```

and add

```
function isObject( obj ) {
 return typeof obj == 'object' && obj != null;
}

function isArray( obj ) {
 return isObject( obj ) && obj.constructor.toString().indexOf( 'Array' ) != -1;
}

Array.prototype.Contains = function( element, strict ) {
 for( i in this ) {
  if( this[i] == element && !strict || this[i] === element ) {
   return true;
  }
 }
 return false;
}
```

For restricting the modifications to IPs instead of a specific user group, use

```
if ( !isArray( wgUserGroups ) ) {
 addOnloadHook( CustomizeModificationsOfSidebar );
}
```

Make expanding/collapsing sidebar for all users (Monobook skin only) [edit source]

If you use the Monobook skin and don't want to miss the expandable menu bar from e.g. Vector skin, paste the following code into MediaWiki:Monobook.js of your wiki.

```
/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
// Code snippet to make your sidebar items expandable  //
// Use this code ONLY for the Monobook skin.           //
/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

$( document ).ready( function() {
 // Set the default expanded items by their headline
 var defaultExpandItems = ['Navigation', 'Orga'];
 // Set the basic-name for the cookies, which save the current state of expanding
 var expandCookieName = 'disdance_project_wiki_nav_expanded_';

 var maxHeights = [];
 var expandeds = [];
 var labels = [];
 initNav();
});

function initNav() {
 $( '#p-logo' ).css({'position': 'relative', 'display': 'block'});
 $( '.generated-sidebar h5,#p-tb h5 ').each( function( i ) {
  var id = $( this ).parent().attr( 'id' );
```

```
  maxHeights[id] = $( this ).next( 'div' ).height();
  var str = $( this ).html();
  labels[id] = str;

  if ( $.cookie( expandCookieName + id ) == 'false' ) {
   expandeds[id] = false;
   minimize( $( this ) );
  } else if ( $.cookie( expandCookieName + id ) == 'true' ) {
   expandeds[id] = true;
   maximize( $( this ) );
  } else if ( defaultExpandItems.indexOf( str ) == -1 ) {
   expandeds[id] = false;
   minimize( $( this ) );
  } else {
   expandeds[id] = true;
   maximize( $( this ) );
  }
  $( this ).css({'cursor': 'pointer'});
  $( this ).click( toggleNav );
 } );
}

function minimize( target ) {
 var id = $( target ).parent().attr( 'id' );
 // You can change the expires parameter to save the cookie longer/shorter than 7 days like in this code
 $.cookie( expandCookieName + id, 'false', { expires: 7} );
 var str = labels[id] + '  ►';
 $( target ).next( 'div' ).animate({'height': '0px'});
 $( target ).html( str );
}

function maximize( target ) {
 var id = $( target ).parent().attr( 'id' );
 // You can change the expires parameter to save the cookie longer/shorter than 7 days like in this code
 $.cookie( expandCookieName + id, 'true', { expires: 7} );
 var str = labels[id] + '  ▼';
 var newHeight = maxHeights[id];
 $( target ).next( 'div' ).animate({'height': newHeight + 'px'});
 $( target ).html( str );
}

function toggleNav( e ) {
 var id = $(e.target ).parent().attr( 'id' );
 expandeds[id] = !expandeds[id];
 if( expandeds[id] == true ) {
  maximize( e.target );
 } else {
  minimize( e.target );
 }
}

/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
```

Sidebar width in Monobook skin (CSS) [edit source]

You can change the width of your sidebar by adding the following CSS rules to your MediaWiki:Monobook.css, note that this is an **article**, not a file. This changes the width to 15em, the actions position and portlet width should be an em or so less, so I've set them to 14em in this example.

```
/* increase sidebar width */
#column-content { margin-left: -15em; }
#column-content #content { margin-left: 15em; }
#p-logo a, #p-logo a:hover { width: 15em; }
#p-cactions { left: 14.5em; }
.portlet { width: 14em; }
div#column-content { margin-left: -14em; }
div#content { margin-left: 14em; }
```

Sidebar width in Vector skin (CSS) [edit source]

You can change the width of your sidebar by adding the following CSS rules to your MediaWiki:Vector.css. The standard width in vector skin is 10em. The following example changes the width to 12em:

```
/* increase Vector sidebar width */
div#mw-panel { width: 12em; }
div#footer, #mw-head-base, div#content { margin-left: 12em; }
#left-navigation { margin-left: 12em; }
```

Change sidebar content when logged in (PHP) [edit source]

You can modify the sidebar using a hook. Create a small extension of your own or put the code directly into your LocalSettings.php file.

Some example code adding a 'navigation' sidebar block with a login link for logged out users.

Warning: The sidebar's array is cached after this hook is run, if you use sidebar caching and do user specific

things in this hook like something that only shows up when logged in or out it may end up cached and not look correctly for some users.

```
<?php
$wgHooks['SkinBuildSidebar'][] = 'lfHideSidebar';
function lfHideSidebar( $skin, &$bar ) {
 global $wgUser;
 // Hide sidebar for anonymous users
 if ( !$wgUser->isLoggedIn() ) {
  $bar = array(
   'navigation' => array(
    array(
     'text'   => wfMsg( 'login' ),
     'href'   => SpecialPage::getTitleFor( 'Login' )->getLocalURL(),
     'id'     => 'n-login',
     'active' => ''
    )
   )
  );
 }
 return true;
}
```

Parser functions in sidebar [edit source]

Although its not exactly recommended, the sidebar does support parser functions (such as ParserFunctions), provided the `**` is outside the parser function, and the parser function does not span multiple lines. For example:

```
*Heading
**{{#ifeq:{{NAMESPACE}}|User|Page-to-link-to{{!}}text-to-show-on-user-page}}
**{{#ifeq:{{NAMESPACE}}|Talk|Another-Page-to-link-to{{!}}text-to-show-on-talk-page}}
```

works. However the following would **not** work since the parser function spans multiple lines:

```
*Heading
{{#ifeq:1|1|
**foo{{!}}bar
|
**baz{{!}}fred
}}
```

Warning: There is a bug on 1.18 where if a line on MediaWiki:Sidebar contains pipe characters (|) before expanding parser functions, but not after expanding parser functions, an exception is thrown on all pages (bug 33321). If such a construction is accidentally introduced to the sidebar, it forces the user to revert MediaWiki:Sidebar using the API or edit.php. This is fixed in later versions of MediaWiki

Troubleshooting [edit source]

Changes not showing up [edit source]

MediaWiki aggressively caches content if possible, which often causes the navigation bar to persist after changes. Purging the cache of affected pages should correct the situation. To perform a mass-purge of all caches at once, touch the **`LocalSettings.php`** file or truncate the **`objectcache`** table in your database (you may have to do both).

You also need to have $wgUseDatabaseMessages set to `true`.

Lowercase link labels [edit source]

If your links are not being capitalized as intended, try adding spaces around the bar character; for example:

```
** http://www.example.com/download.php?file=44555 | Download
```

Sections disappear or show unexpected content [edit source]

If a section does not display or displays unexpected content, check that the header text isn't the name of an interface message by searching Special:AllMessages. If it is, use a different header text, or create a new interface message and use it.

For example, if you want to use "Sidebar" as header text, create the interface message "MediaWiki:Sidebar-header" containing only "Sidebar". Then, use `* sidebar-header` as header.

Sections are not displayed if there are no links of the form `** target|link text` (e.g. when the target was forgotten).

Broken links after updating Special:Version [edit source]

This will happen e.g., each time there are newer translations for your site language's sidebar items. One could add new redirect pages each time, but a better solution would be to use one's own sidebar item names instead of trying to keep

track of the current MediaWiki translations.

Ancient versions of MediaWiki [edit source]

If you have a pre-release version of 1.5 Beta, or earlier, it is still possible in some cases to edit the sidebar:

- Prior to 1.5 branching (between rev:9150 and rev:9177) the message utilized was briefly **MediaWiki:Navbar**.
- Before this, version 1.4 had (from rev:5528 to rev:9150) a global variable, titled $wgNavigationLinks.

See also [edit source]

- Sidebar
- Extension:SideBarMenu
- Quickbar
- w:User:Mike Dillon/Sidebar
- Extension:CustomSidebar
- User:Goldbishop/Sidebar (updated for MW 1.19)
- Manual:Interface/Sidebar/Hacks - Unsupported PHP modifying hacks that used to be on this page
- Manual:$wgEnableSidebarCache
- Category:Menu extensions

Language:	**English** • 日本語 • русский

Categories: Interface messages | Outdated pages

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